Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Morning

Sunday, December 25, 2016

He is Born!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace to all!

Gathering

PRELUDE

"What Is this Lovely Fragrance"

Hamm

WELCOME

Jimmy Chapman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Now let us pray together:

There is good news of great joy for all! The Holy Child is born – the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

*INTROIT #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Chadwick, 1860

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you heard? Something new has happened upon the earth!

Yes, we've heard! We heard that He's our Savior! The Son of God is born!

People of God, it's true! Unto us - yes, unto US is born this day in the city of Bethlehem, the Holy Child, God's own Son!

This is good news of great joy which has come to all people everywhere!

Let us sing praise to our Lord and Savior.

Glory to God! Glory to God! Amen!

*HYMN #115

"Away in a Manger"

Murray, 1887

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emmanuel has come to earth, bringing salvation to all. God's ways are not our ways. God's ways are magnificent! Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. But we are frightened by your call. We are afraid of taking chances. We are afraid of following your light, because it leads us into the places where you need us. We don't want to see how much your people hurt. We don't want to see your light shining in the eyes of our neighbor. Yet we know that in those places, your grace shines. Help us to seek your light. Guide us in your way. For we pray in the name of the Light of the World. Amen

LORD HAVE MERCY Kyrie Eleison

"Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our light has come! In the name of the Child named Jesus, we are forgiven!

We are forgiven. Our future awaits us with hope – great hope once again. We will walk in the light of God's grace! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Proclaiming

ANTHEM "In the Bleak Mid-winter"

(Bert Lowe, Soloist)

Rosetti/Holst

#580

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isais

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 Bibles, p.600/LG. p.780

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #128

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

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Reed, 1921

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

Bibles, p.54/ LG. p.71

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON "The Gift of God"

Rev. Candice L. Klein

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells." This, we believe. Amen. – The Confession of Belhar

*HYMN #123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (v. 1,2,5)

Sears, 1849

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "In Dulce Jubilo"

Pachelbel

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #134 *"Joy to the World"* (v.1-3)

Watts, 1719

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #134

"Joy to the World" (v.4)

POSTLUDE Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand. **Bold italic letters** indicate congregational responses.

This week's prayers and concerns: Jack and Delbert Gray, the family of Jack Clark, Robbie Brooks, Syble DeLoach, Sally Hosea, Debbie Murphy, Juan Castro, Cindy Ratliff, Sue Williams and Dr. David Craig.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. 12/26 Church Offices Closed for Christmas
Tues. 12/27 Pipeline Deadline
Sun. 01/01 Election of Elders